UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

Arabic teaching.

23. **MR. K. A. MOHAMED** (*Quilon cum Kottarakara*): Will the Government be pleased to state;

(*a*) the number of Primary Schools in which there is no provision for Arabic teaching where the strength of Muslim pupils is more than 25; and

(*b*) what is the basis for the sanctioning of the appointment of the Arabic Instructors and Munshies in Malayalam Primary, Malayalam Middle and English Schools?

MR. A. GOPALA MENON (*Director of Public Instruction*): (*a*) 44.

(*b*) An attendance of at least 25 pupils in Primary Schools and 10 in English, Malayalam and Tamil High and Middle Schools.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION *RE*: FAILURE OF CROPS.

PRESIDENT: The honourable member, Mr. T. K. Narayana Pillai, has given notice of a motion for adjournment of the House to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, *viz.*, the serious situation that has been created in the country by the failure of crops in the current season consequent on the failure of the South-West Monsoon. The motion is not admissible, but as the matter is a very serious one, I think I ought to give a considered ruling on the subject.

First of all, the failure of the monsoon, made itself apparent many weeks ago, and the rules as to motions of adjournment of business for the purposes of debate are conditioned upon the subject being a definite matter of urgent public importance. The urgency, if it existed at all, existed before the 16th of August 1944 when all the adjournment motions were given. The ruling in the Assembly is, I have already indicated, that all motions relating to discussions on matters of urgent public importance should be handed in on the first day. I gave a ruling to that effect, and I have also added that if any supervening circumstances between the first day and the subsequent day rendered it necessary to move adjournment motions, those motions would also be considered. As the failure of the monsoon was prior to the first day's meeting, this matter is not one of urgent public importance for purposes of debate.

There is also another objection. The honourable members will see that a subject on which a resolution could not be moved, cannot be the subject matter of a motion for the adjournment of the House. According to Rule 57 at page 44 of the Manual, a resolution can be moved only if it can be in the form of a specific recommendation addressed to Government, and must raise a definite issue. In the nature of things, the failure of the monsoon melancholic as it has been, and the failure of crops which has been its concomitant, are matters on which such a resolution cannot be moved, but in order that a mere attitude of *non-possumus* should not be attributed to Government I may say this at once; while I am obliged to disallow the motion under the Rules appertaining to motions of adjournment of the House

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